

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Arizona State University softball team for their championship victory in the 2008 Women's College World Series.

On June 3, 2008, the Arizona State University Sun Devils won the 2008 NCAA Women's College World Series after trouncing Texas A&M Aggies 11-0. Not only did this win mark the first national title for Arizona State University in softball, but the Lady Sun Devils also set a record for the highest margin of victory in a championship game in the NCAA Women's College World Series history.

Arizonans and a national television audience shared in the excitement, pride and sportsmanship ASU players displayed, both on the field and in the dugout during this inspiring victory.

Furthermore, the ASU softball team played an excellent season, winning an impressive 66 games. Under the leadership of Coach Clint Meyers, the Sun Devils went 56-5 during the season, and 10-for-10 in the post season. This team succeeded with the hard work, grit and determination of the players, coaches and staff.

Outstanding players in the Women's College World Series include super slugger, Kaitlin Cochran, who set a new NCAA single season record by drawing 29 intentional walks.

Star pitcher Katie Burkhart earned Most Valuable Player honors in the Women's College World Series with 53 strikeouts and a perfect record of five wins and zero losses.

Six of the lady Sun Devils were also named to the Louisville Slugger National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Pacific Region team. Five of these players, Katie Burkhart, Mindy Cowles, Krista Donnenwirth, Kaitlin Cochran and Jackie Vasquez, advanced to earn Louisville Sluggers/NFCA All-American honors.

This team of course owes a great deal of its success to the superb ASU coaching staff, including Head Coach Clint Meyers and Assistant Coaches Kirsten Voak and Robert Wagner,

who have been named to the NFCA's NCAA Division I National Coaching Staff of the year.

As an alumnus of ASU, I am honored and excited to see a team from my alma mater accomplish this feat. This is truly a victory for Sun Devils everywhere. The championship title has been a long time coming for this team, and these women showed that true dedication and persistence can, indeed, pay off.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable success of this team whose achievements and camaraderie should be models for other teams across the country.

Go Devils.